

Please protect democracy in America by not allowing Sinclair Broadcasting to air a one-sided version of a major candidate so close to a very important election. Neither side, Republican nor Democrat should be allowed to air extended one-sided programs. To do so would violate fairness rules as well as campaign contribution rules. Let America see the candidates and their party's ads, and let them decide on that basis. To allow Sinclair to dictate to their stations that the anti-Kerry propaganda is to be shown is a sign that the corporate owned media is out of control. Freedom of speech is guaranteed to the people, not to self-serving corporations.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.